

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A pattern generator in a semiconductor test system for generating test patterns for testing a semiconductor memory device, comprising:

5 an inversion request signal circuit for generating an inversion request signal for each specified memory cell of a memory device under test for inverting write data to the specified memory cell;

10 wherein locations of specified memory cells are on a diagonal line on an array of memory cells in the semiconductor memory device, and wherein the numbers of memory cells in a row (X) and column (Y) are different from each other.

15 2. A pattern generator in a semiconductor test system as defined in Claim 1, wherein the inversion request signal circuit is comprised of:

a diagonal inversion set register for storing a set value defining locations of diagonal lines on the array of memory cells;

20 an accumulator for adding Y address data for the memory device under test and the set value from the register;

25 a Y AND gate provided with the output of the accumulator, maximum Y address value, and maximum X address value;

an X AND gate provided with X address data for the memory device under test, the maximum Y address value, and the maximum X address value; and

30 a comparator for comparing outputs of the Y AND gate and X AND gate and generates the inversion request signal when the outputs of the Y and S AND gates match with each other.

35 3. A pattern generator in a semiconductor test system as defined in Claim 1, wherein the inversion request signal circuit operates to perform the following equation for each

and every address of the memory device under test:

(Y address of memory cell + diagonal inversion set value) AND (maximum X address value AND maximum Y address value) = X address of memory cell AND (maximum X address value AND maximum Y address value)

wherein when the results of right side and left side of the equation match with one another, the inversion request signal circuit generates the inversion request signal, thereby inverting the write data to the specified memory cells of the memory device under test.

4. A pattern generator in a semiconductor test system as defined in Claim 1, wherein the inversion request signal circuit operates to perform the following equation for each and every address of the memory device under test:

*(X address of memory cell + diagonal inversion set value) AND (maximum X address value & maximum Y address value) = Y address of memory cell AND (maximum X address value AND maximum Y address value)

where the mark * indicates bit inversion which inverts the data indicating the added result within the parentheses that comes immediately after the mark; and

wherein when the results of right side and left side of the equation match with one another, the inversion request signal circuit generates the inversion request signal, thereby inverting the write data to the specified memory cells of the memory device under test.

5. A pattern generator in a semiconductor test system as defined in Claim 1, generates address data for accessing the memory device under test and a failure memory provided in the semiconductor test system for storing test results therein, control data for controlling an operation of the memory device under test, and write data for being written in the memory device under test at addresses defined by the

address data;

wherein the write data inverted in response to the inversion request signal is also sent to a logic comparator provided in the semiconductor test system as expected data
5 for comparing with output data of the memory device under test.

6. A pattern generator in a semiconductor test system as defined in Claim 1, generates address data for accessing the memory device under test and a failure memory provided in
10 the semiconductor test system for storing test results therein, control data for controlling operations of the memory device under test and the failure memory, and write data for being written in the memory device under test at addresses defined by the address data;

15 wherein the write data inverted in response to the inversion request signal is sent to a logic comparator provided in the semiconductor test system as expected data for comparing with output data of the memory device under test, and information on data inversion is provided to the
20 failure memory to be stored therein.

7. A method of generating a test pattern for a semiconductor test system for testing a semiconductor memory device, including a step of generating an inversion request signal by performing the following equation for each and
25 every address of the memory device under test:

(Y address of memory cell + diagonal inversion set value) AND (maximum X address value AND maximum Y address value) = X address of memory cell AND (maximum X address value AND maximum Y address value)
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wherein when the results of right side and left side of the equation match with one another, the inversion request signal is generated to invert write data to a memory cell of the memory device under test specified by the X and Y address
35 in the equation.

